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BOOK NOTICES

Die christliche Wahrheitsgewissheit; ihr letzter Grund und ihre Entstehung. Von L. IHMELS. Dritte erweiterte und verbesserte Auflage. Leipzig: Deichert, 1914. Pp. viii+352. M. 7.50.

In order to appreciate this long and, it must be confessed, tedious volume, one must be concerned to preserve a distinctly Lutheran type of religious certainty, while at the same time one attempts to meet the demand for empirical testing which characterizes modern thinking. A valuable historical introduction to the problem deals with Luther, Lutheran orthodoxy, Pietism, Frank, Herrmann, and Troeltsch. The last half of the book is devoted to the author's own position. He sets forth Christian certainty as the result of our *experience* of the divine power of *revelation*. Both factors are essential. We could not recognize revelation save as we experience God in a "Word" which appeals to us. But we could not have the experience without a revelation to produce it. The reader who is accustomed to a historical approach to theological questions will feel as if Ihmels were going endlessly around in a circle. Granted the proper presuppositions and his method would establish the "truth" of Christian Science, or of Mohammedanism just as well as it does the "truth" of Ihmels' type of Christianity.

Social Heredity and Social Evolution. By Herbert W. Conn. New York: Abingdon Press, 1915. Pp. vi+348. \$1.50.

The author is professor of biology in the Wesleyan University, at Middletown, Connecticut. He has, in recent years, published a number of serviceable popular works which have had a wide circulation. The present book is a treatise on what he calls "the other side of eugenics." Professor Conn points out that it has been generally assumed of late that mankind has developed under the same kind of laws and forces that have been concerned in the formation of the lower orders of nature. One of the more recent phases of this view has found expression in the great interest taken in the modern study of eugenics, which is based upon the laws of inheritance as they have been determined by the study of the lower orders and then applied to man. It is the purpose of this work to show that the laws of the evolution of animals and plants apply to human evolution only up to a certain point, beyond which man has been under the influence of distinct laws of his own. Accordingly, while the human being, considered as an *animal*, may have developed under the laws which have brought about the evolution of

the rest of the world, the human being, considered as a *social unit*, has been developed under the influence of a new set of forces which have had little or no control over the animal kingdom. It has therefore appeared to the author that, with all the cogency of the biological facts presented by the eugenists, there is a side of the question which they are overlooking, and which weighs more heavily in determining human progress than the laws of mere physical inheritance upon which eugenics is based. To many who have been repelled by the mechanical and apparently heartless atmosphere of eugenics, this treatise will come as a relief. It will be useful either as a textbook or for general reading. Some of the chapter headings are: "Human and Animal Evolution Contrasted," "Evolution of Moral Codes," "Beginnings of Social Evolution," "Egoism and Altruism," "Social Evolution and Social Heredity."

A Modern Church Program. A Study in Efficiency. By Albert F. McGarrah. New York: Revell, 1915. \$0.50.

In this little book Mr. McGarrah has put together the results of a very considerable experience as a larger efficiency expert. The title itself shows the new tendencies in our religious life, for the book is not a collection of clever tricks, but a pioneering study of methodical efficiency. The author does not make the mistake of trying to run churches as if they were business organizations, nor does he yield to the temptation to over-organize. Doubtless if any one church attempted to adopt all of the methods contained in the book, it would die of efficiency indigestion, but in so doing it would be untrue to the purposes of the author himself. We most heartily commend this book to the study of every pastor. The sooner its general point of view is embodied in ecclesiastical work the sooner will the church itself become efficient. The appearance of such discussions is full of encouragement for the future of the church.

The Life of Lyman Trumbull. By Horace White. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1913. Pp. xix+458. \$2.00.

"Chapters in the Moral Development of America" would be a good subtitle for this biography of the man who wrote the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, abolishing slavery in this nation. The book not only makes profitable reading, but it is important as covering a period in our history which leads directly up to the present social and spiritual awakening. One of the best ways to